



Mary Feyijinmi • 2nd

Arts Facilitator at GlobalArts to Go

Community-Word Project • Fiorello LaGuardia High School of Music & Art, Friends World C...

Brooklyn, New York • 235

Pending

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I am an artist that enjoys exploring  
expression through dance, percussion and writing. My career as a performer has included working ...

[See more](#)

## Highlights



### 2 Mutual Connections

You and Mary both know Lois Saperstein and André LeRoy Davis

## Experience

### Teaching Artist

Community-Word Project

Jan 2015 – Present 3 yrs 1 mo



Word  
Project

Dance teaching artist for Children of Promise, an after school program providing services for children whose parents are incarcerated. Partner teaching artist with a poet, teaching in a public school arts program focusing on poetry, dance and Greek mythology for sixth grade students. Each residency ended with a performance in the youth's community as well as the publishing of an anthology containing poetry and photographs documenting the arc of the student's creative process. Every participant's family received one.

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Brooklyn  
Arts  
Council

### **Dance Teaching Artist**

Brooklyn Arts Council

Jan 2015 – Present 3 yrs 1 mo

55 Washington Street Ste 218, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201

Dance teaching artist providing residencies for public schools community centers and cultural institutions.

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Center  
for Arts

### **Dance Teaching Artist**

Center for Arts Education

Jan 2015 – Present 3 yrs 1 mo

266 W 37th Street 9th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10018

Dance teaching artist partnering with classroom teacher cultivating English language learners communication skills and confidence through dance residencies. The residency culminated with live performance of mime or dance by professional world known artists for students and their families.

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GlobalArts  
to Go

### **Arts Facilitator**

GlobalArts to Go

Dec 2014 – Present 3 yrs 2 mos

New York, NY

Teaching artist that facilitates hands on interactive workshops for staff and students exploring global cultures.

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DreamYard  
Project

### **Dance Educator**

DreamYard Project

Oct 2001 – Dec 2013 12 yrs 3 mos

Dance teaching artist focusing on social justice issues. Partnered with academic teachers utilizing dance as a tool to deepen curriculum learning. Focused on dances from Africa and her diaspora, as well as choreography, community building, collaboration and problem solving skills with K-12 students. Succeeded in having students in all grades perform at venues including Lehman College, The Public Theater and The French Institute. Facilitated professional development workshops for dance, theater teaching artists and public school teachers in the arts.

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## Dance Teaching Artist

BAX | Brooklyn Arts Exchange

Oct 1993 – Jun 2009 15 yrs 9 mos

Dance teaching artist in variety of public schools based in Brooklyn with elementary and middle school students. Taught dances from Africa and her diaspora. Also taught modern dance classes and master dance workshops to teens at Bax's studios. Conducted professional development for teachers in public schools focusing on Caribbean and African folklore and dance.

Received space grant, collaborated with actress Marline Martin, choreographed and performed own work. Choreographed: Mae, a work by playwright Letitia Guillory. Danced in pieces choreographed by Valerie Winborne and Valerie Adefokun

Created own storytelling repertoire called "Grandma's Hands" focusing on stories from Puerto Rico and Trinidad. Performed in a variety of Brooklyn elementary and public schools as part of Bax's Arts in Education component.

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## Dance Teaching Artist

Young Dancers in Repertory

Oct 1999 – Aug 2003 3 yrs 11 mos

Had the privilege to return to the block I grew up on to work as a dance teaching artist with elementary school children, teaching them dances from Africa and her diaspora. In addition performed in global dance festivals YDR presented in various schools throughout NYC.

[See fewer positions](#) ^

## Education

Fiorello LaGuardia High School of Music & Art, Friends World College, CCNY,  
The New School

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New School

## Volunteer Experience

### Personal Assistant

Vinie Burrows

Jul 2014 – Jul 2014 1 mo

Arts and Culture

While working with Vinie Burrows, an incredible elder activist and artist, I was her : archivist, bookkeeper

and personal shopper. I shared my extensive network of college, cultural institutions and healers to assist her on her journey seeking employment and fulfillment. I helped her research and prepare one woman performances as well as assisted with reading of lines for a play she was in about the freedom riders. It was an invaluable experience to work with an artist I had followed and respected for decades. As I helped her organize, I learned more about organizing a legacy, and how to honor those who serve our communities globally and right here in NYC.

## Featured Skills & Endorsements

### Teaching · 22



Endorsed by **Niia Bishop, PhD** and 4 others who are highly skilled at this



Endorsed by 2 of Mary's colleagues at Brooklyn Arts Council

### Performing Arts · 15



Endorsed by **Alexis Marnel**, who is highly skilled at this



Endorsed by 2 of Mary's colleagues at BAX | Brooklyn Arts Exchange

### Dance · 15



Endorsed by **Christalyn Wright Hampton** and 1 other who is highly skilled at this



Endorsed by 2 of Mary's colleagues at Brooklyn Arts Council



## Recommendations

Received (0)      **Given (1)**

I have had the privilege of working with Penelope McCourty in many different arenas for many years. I first became aware of her genius when working with her on her "Love Project", an intergenerational journey in dance and text.

Her composition techniques were designed to establish respect of personal boundaries, trust and respect for the intelligence and experience of all of the participants in her piece, no matter what age. She recognized, as it was indeed an act of love for performance that

brought us to her, not the financial benefit, that this perhaps would be the foundation for lifelong meaningful connections.

She in turn has become a dear friend who has recommended me, employed me, listened to me and offered professional development free of charge when I was struggling working with a population of youth who even tried to physically harm me. She succeeded in providing me strategies to keep them engaged and prepared for their annual performance. Her patience, humanity and creative problem solving skills continue to floor me.

I was impressed when she came to me upon interviewing for her position at BAX, because she recognized I was one of the few women of color who had a long term relationship with the organization that included: being a space grantee, a teacher of African and modern dance to youth and adults, performer and storyteller in the schools. She honored the fact that I had experiences that could benefit her process, and a unique perspective. When she became director of education, she opened up a world of possibilities that the organization had yet to consider.

I highly recommend this administrator, educator, facilitator, choreographer, dancer for any position. Thank you for your time .

Sincerely Yours,  
Mary Feyijinmi



**Penelope McCourty**

Upper and Middle School Dance Teacher at The Berkeley Carroll School

November 2, 2014, Mary worked with Penelope in different groups

Mary Feyijinmi

